GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3015
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2002
MEDICINES AND ORGANIC PESTICIDES FROM TOBACCO
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether life saving medicines and organic pesticides can be extracted from tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken for patenting such products and for commercially production of such items;

(d) whether further research are being taken on extracts of tobacco being discouraged for chewing and smoking world over; and

(e) if so, the institutes engaged for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (e) : The Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), which is responsible for conducting research into tobacco and its by-products, is engaged in research work on the pharmaceutical and industrial applications of tobacco and its extracts. This research includes that on the applications of nicotine sulphate and solanesol, both of which have potential in the pharmaceutical as well as the organic pesticide industries. The Tobacco Board is working out the modalities for setting up a pilot plant to test the benchmark technology developed by the CTRI before commercial production is considered.The commercial viability of these products will be gauged before any applications are made for grant of patents.